

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference of January 12, 2004. As a result of the conference, claims 1 and all pending independent claims are believed to be allowable as well as new claim 47 since new claim 47 was original claim 1 and original claim 12 as originally filed.

As a preliminary matter, claim 39 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11-12, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 36, 39, 41, 42, 44, and 46 are objected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sixtus.

New claim 47 which is the combination of original claim 1 and claim 12 requires, among other things, the storing of a plurality of selectable animated images as the dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information and selecting, in response to user input, at least one of the plurality of stored selectable animated images for output on a display device during prompting for password entry. The office action indicated that such operation would be inherent since each time the user engages the image it changes. However, as discussed with the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim requires that a plurality of selectable animated images must be stored. As such, these are selectable animated images, and not for example static hard coded images or other fixed animated images. In addition, the user is allowed to select one of the plurality of stored selectable animated images as the dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information which is output during prompting for password entry. As such, the user can select one of many different animated images to be presented when being prompted for a password entry. This user control and user selectability is not taught or suggested by the Sixtus reference. To the contrary, Sixtus teaches that a vendor's web pages may have embedded transaction request buttons and that once a transaction request button is clicked a transaction takes place with no credit card or address to type in. It does not appear that the Sixtus reference teaches or suggests user selectability of password entry legitimacy information from a group of animated images that are stored. As such, this claim is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, the Sixtus reference is directed to a method and system for secure online transaction processing which requires a computer to transmit a transaction request message to a vendor computer. The financial transaction request includes user identification data unique to the user computer. In response to receiving the transaction request, the vendor computer sends a transaction verification request to a trust server computer to request transaction verification. The trust server computer authenticates the user computer based on the identification data. As also pointed out by the Examiner, the Sixtus reference also generally discloses that when a transaction request button is clicked, a transaction takes place with no credit card or address to type in. In addition, the transaction request button will appear as an attractive animated figure. When the animated image is clicked, the animation changes accompanied by audio effects. During the transaction request, a user enters in their PIN. When the transaction is approved, the animation changes once more accompanied by an audio effect. As such, in order to request a transaction, a user "simply has to click the embedded button and enter his PIN."

In contrast, Applicant's claim, among other things, altering at least one feature of the animated image in response to entering of one or more entered password characters. As to claim 1 for example, the altering occurs prior to a transaction being completed. For example, during the password entry phase of a session. The Office Action alleges that the Sixtus reference in Col. 4, lines 62-62 and Col. 5, line 18 allegedly teaches a system that alters a feature of the animated image in response to entry of one or more entered password characters. However, Applicant respectfully notes that the cited portion merely states that the only time a animated character is changed is by clicking on the animated character or after a transaction is complete. This is done independent of the entry of the password character. In contrast, Applicant claims that an animated image is altered in response to entry of one or more entered password characters i.e. as a part of the password entry phase. The Sixtus reference teaches a different approach wherein a user simply enters the PIN and the animated image does not change. The only time the animated image appears to change is when the animated image is clicked. This is a distinctly different operation than that claimed by Applicant. Accordingly, the independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, as for claim 46 for example, this claim requires, among other things, that a graphical pattern changes in response to entry of one or more entered password characters. Again, for the same reasons as noted above, the Sixtus patent fails

to anticipate or render this claim obvious. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, the dependent claims add additional novel and nonobvious subject matter. For example, as to claim 7, the claim requires displaying the animated image prior to allowing input of a password. However, as described in the Sixtus reference, the animated image appears a button along with the PIN entry. Accordingly, this claim is also in condition for allowance.

As to claim 8, this claim requires displaying the animated image after allowing input of a password. However, as described in Sixtus, the animated image is displayed during entry of a password. Accordingly, this claim is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

As to claim 12, the Office Action cites Col. 4, lines 58-64. However, this portion only describes an animated image and not a plurality of selectable animated images. As noted above with respect to claim 47, in Sixtus, it does not appear that the animated image can be selected from a plurality of animated images. Instead it appears that only one image is used as a default image. Animated images are the same for every user and for every transaction or session. Applicant claims a different approach wherein multiple images are user selectable and at least one of the selectable animated images are output on a display device during password entry. This claim is also in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above with respect to corresponding claims associated with other independent claims. For the above reasons, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 15, 19, 24, 35, 38 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sixtus in view of Tabuki. Applicant respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above with respect to Sixtus. Accordingly, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 14, 23 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sixtus in view of Suzuki. Applicant again respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above with respect to Sixtus. Accordingly, these claims are also in believed to be in condition

for allowance. In addition, the Suzuki reference merely indicates that 3D pictures may be used for displaying information concerning stores and goods. This assumes that a log-on has already occurred. There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited portion of Suzuki relating to entry of a password or the use of the 3D image in connection with the entry of a password. Accordingly, the claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Christopher J. Reckamp
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

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Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: (312) 609-7599
Fax: (312) 609-5005
Email: creckamp@vedderprice.com